

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of May 21, 2019

Since April 1, the western parts of the province received at least 40 mm of accumulated precipitation, while areas in the northern parts of the Peace Region, eastern parts of the North West, most parts of the Central, and eastern parts of the Southern Region have seen less than 20 mm of rain (see map on the next page). Frost was reported in some parts of the Southern and Central Regions, with minimal damage to seeded crops as overnight temperatures hovered between -2°C and -4°C.

Favorable dry weather conditions over the past week have allowed seeding to progress significantly. Provincially, as of May 21, about 73 per cent of all crops and 72 per cent of major crops have been seeded, compared to 42 per cent of major crops a week ago and the 5-year average (2014-2018) of 55 per cent (see Table 1). Compared to the 5-year averages, producers in all regions are almost a week ahead. Regionally, seeding progress is most advanced at 83 per cent in the Southern Region, followed by 73 per cent in the Central and 67 per cent in the North East Regions. For the North West and Peace Regions, seeding progress are at 65 and 66 per cent, respectively.

Over the past week, a large system brought rain to many areas in the Southern Region, as well as some parts of the Central and North West Regions, while the rest of province remained in dry conditions. As a result, soil moisture reserves improved for the Southern Region, but deteriorated somewhat for all other regions in the province. Provincially, surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 11 (12) per cent poor, 33 (33) per cent fair, 47 (45) per cent good, 8 (10) per cent excellent, and 1 (0) per cent excessive (see Table 2 for regional rates).

**Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 21, 2019**

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	84.1%	81.7%	81.4%	80.7%	72.3%	80.9%
Durum Wheat	92.9%	70.2%	---	---	---	89.9%
Barley	79.1%	74.7%	43.9%	53.9%	52.6%	66.7%
Oats	78.9%	49.4%	31.4%	48.5%	51.2%	46.7%
Canola	70.9%	61.8%	58.8%	54.4%	59.9%	61.2%
Dry Peas	94.3%	95.9%	93.7%	94.2%	82.5%	92.2%
Mustard	84.3%	44.2%	---	---	---	70.2%
Flax	62.8%	28.6%	50.0%	---	---	52.9%
Potatoes	96.8%	25.0%	---	20.0%	---	89.1%
Dry Beans	45.0%	---	---	---	---	45.0%
Chickpeas	95.5%	93.0%	---	---	---	95.5%
Lentils	97.0%	79.6%	---	---	---	94.2%
Corn	61.7%	79.1%	---	---	---	75.4%
<b>All Crops, May 21</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>73.3%</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	<b>65.0%</b>	<b>65.7%</b>	<b>72.6%</b>
<b>All Crops, 5-year Average</b>	<b>69.0%</b>	<b>53.3%</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>49.0%</b>	<b>48.0%</b>	<b>54.5%</b>
<b>Major Crops, May 21</b>	<b>80.8%</b>	<b>74.0%</b>	<b>67.3%</b>	<b>65.1%</b>	<b>65.7%</b>	<b>71.6%</b>
<b>Major Crops, May 14</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>39.8%</b>	<b>32.0%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>28.8%</b>	<b>42.4%</b>

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

**Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 21, 2019**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	10.1%	26.6%	55.3%	8.0%	0.0%
Central	17.5%	26.0%	49.8%	6.6%	0.0%
North East	12.9%	45.8%	37.2%	3.5%	0.7%
North West	3.1%	44.8%	45.7%	5.7%	0.7%
Peace	3.7%	28.5%	44.0%	20.5%	3.3%
Alberta	10.8%	33.4%	47.1%	8.0%	0.7%
5-year Average	9.5%	21.4%	39.7%	25.0%	4.4%
10-year Average	9.0%	23.0%	43.0%	22.0%	3.1%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	10.1%	26.6%	55.3%	8.0%	0.0%
Central	17.5%	26.0%	49.8%	6.6%	0.0%
North East	12.9%	45.8%	37.2%	3.5%	0.7%
North West	3.1%	44.8%	45.7%	5.7%	0.7%
Peace	3.7%	28.5%	44.0%	20.5%	3.3%
Alberta	10.8%	33.4%	47.1%	8.0%	0.7%
5-year Average	9.5%	21.4%	39.7%	25.0%	4.4%
10-year Average	9.0%	23.0%	43.0%	22.0%	3.1%

## Regional Assessments:

*The 2019 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:*

- Most parts of the region received over 15 mm of rain, contributing to germination and boosting surface soil moisture. However, emergence has been slow, due to the cooler temperatures. Overall, seeding is estimated at 83 per cent of all crops completed and 39 per cent have emerged. For major crops, seeding progress was reported at 81 per cent, up 14 per cent from a week ago.
- About 84 per cent of spring wheat, 93 per cent of durum, 79 per cent of barley, 71 per cent of canola, 94 per cent of dry peas, 62 per cent of corn and 98 per cent of sugar beets have now been seeded.
- Pasture and tame hay fields are in need of moisture and heat. Pasture conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are rated as 18 (14) per cent poor, 29 (26) per cent fair, 49 (55) per cent good and 4 (5) per cent excellent.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 6 per cent poor, 18 per cent fair, 68 per cent good, and 8 per cent excellent.

- Over the past week, favorable weather conditions advanced seeding to 73 per cent of all crops, with 22 per cent emerged. For major crops, about 74 per cent have now been seeded, up 34 per cent from last week. Rain has been variable across the region, from areas receiving no precipitation to those with about an inch of rain.

- Nearly 82 per cent of spring wheat, 75 per cent of barley, 62 per cent of canola, 96 per cent of dry peas, 93 per cent of chickpeas and 80 per cent of lentils are reported as seeded.
- Hay and pasture growth for most parts of the region have been slow, due to lack of moisture and heat. Pasture conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are now rated as 18 (17) per cent poor, 23 (22) per cent fair and 59 (61) per cent good.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 4 per cent poor, 28 per cent fair, 66 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.

### **Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)**

- Favorable weather conditions contributed to seeding progress to 67 per cent, up 35 per cent from a week ago. However, only 14 per cent of crops have emerged, mainly due to dry, windy conditions and cold nights. Heat and moisture are needed to accelerate germination and promote growth in hay and pastures.
- Nearly 81 per cent of spring wheat, 44 per cent of barley, 59 per cent of canola and 94 per cent of dry peas have now been seeded.
- Lack of moisture have led to a deterioration of pasture and tame hay growth conditions over the past two weeks. Pasture conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are now rated as 9 (5) per cent poor, 74 (76) per cent fair and 17 (19) per cent good.
- For fall seeded crops, conditions are reported as 19 per cent fair, 78 per cent good and 3 per cent excellent.

### **Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)**

- Dry weather over the past week have allowed seeding progress to advance to 65 per cent, up 26 per cent from a week ago. However, fairly dry conditions and strong winds are drying up fields. In addition, some areas are still cold, delaying germination. As a result, only two per cent of crops have emerged.
- About 81 per cent of spring wheat, 54 per cent of barley and canola and 94 per cent of dry peas are reported as seeded.
- Although hay and pasture conditions have slightly improved from two weeks ago due to warmer temperatures, growth is still somewhat slow. Pasture conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are rated as 10 (0) per cent poor, 60 (51) per cent fair and 30 (49) per cent good.

### **Region Five: Peace River (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)**

- Facilitated by sunny and windy conditions, seeding for the region is now 66 per cent completed, compared to 37 per cent from a week ago and seven per cent emerged.
- Almost 72 per cent of spring wheat, 53 per cent of barley, 60 per cent of canola and 83 per cent of dry peas have now been seeded.
- Hay and pasture growing conditions have deteriorated from two weeks ago and are in need of moisture. Pasture conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are rated as 7 (6) per cent poor, 47 (47) per cent fair, 43 (44) per cent good and 3 (3) per cent excellent.

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**May 24, 2019**

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